



# MTHINEMIDE



# NEWS

DECEMBER 2020

*Imithi yokuthamela izidaba ZeMpilo zabahlali base Mthonjaneni*

## WELCOME REMARKS BY CEO

*“Let us make our future now, and let us make our dream tomorrow’s reality” - Malala Yousafzai*



**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the Department of Health KZN is infrastructural challenges, but this cannot be blamed by the current democratic government because some of the hospitals were only available to one race and some were forced to crowd in one small hospital.

KwaMagwaza hospital which was formerly known as St. Mary’s Hospital under Dioces Church has some

buildings that were built by mud bricks. Renovation becomes a challenge because the only solution will be to demolish the building and build a new stable structure. Demolishing is not always an option because it will mean the community of Mthonjaneni will not have medical services. One minute without health services can lead to the loss of life. The only option we do have, is to maintain by building new infrastructures that will adhere to the current norms and standards.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the newly employed staff members as Executive Management of KwaMagwaza Hospital. Some of you have been job hunting for more than a year now and some of you are fresh from university. This is going to be the most exciting job you have ever had in your life. It’s one of the best places to work in, we are a family in a very unique way and together we are going to restore the dignity of this hospital.

We would like to give a big thanks to all our colleagues, working tirelessly on the frontline to care for people in need, and our support staff working behind the scenes, in the fight against coronavirus. We thank all the staff members of KwaMagwaza Hospital and services providers that made sure that the ship did not sink during the COVID-19 pandemic peak. It should be noted that the storm is not over but we can see the rainbow colours “Ithunga leNkosazana” as a sign that the storm is moving away. It is also important that we pay respect to the health care workers who were affected and infected by COVID-19. The hospital management is also aware that there were staff members who lost their lives to COVID-19. Condolences to their families and friends, losing someone will never be normal in any family.

The infections of COVID 19 are a concern for all South African citizens. The best advice that our National Minister of Health Dr Zweli Mkhize, gave is only three words, “Wash your Hands”, by doing this you will save yourself and others in the spread of COVID 19.

The compassion you show to the people we serve is an inspiration to us all. We have noticed how you treat everyone with respect and kindness, no matter what the situation is. We all know how stressful it can be for the people who find themselves in need of our health services we provide, and your words and actions go a long way toward helping them keep their dignity.

Top Left Picture: Dr. O.I Ogunwale, Hospital Acting Chief Executive Officer



# Hospital Services to the People - MEC



On 07<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 the MEC for Health KwaZulu-Natal, Ms Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu visited the area of eKuthuleni under Mthonjaneni Local Municipality with the iSibhedlela Kubantu Program. The program was aimed at bringing all the mobile hospital services, such as Dental Clinic, Eye Clinic, MMC Clinic, Medical Officers (Doctors), Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Social Worker, Dietician, and All Primary Health Care Services to the door step of the community of eKuthuleni Area.

The MEC encouraged the public to continue observing all the COVID-19 precautions such as wearing masks and washing your hands regularly and using an alcohol based hand sanitizer to stop the spread of virus. The MEC continued by encouraging women to do Cancer Screenings regularly to prevent growth. The service is available for free in all the PCH Clinics and it for free.

The MEC handed over wheelchairs to patients that were identified by our Community Health Worker (CHW) in eKuthuleni Area. The mother of one of

the wheelchair beneficiaries was in tears of joy and thanked the MEC for intervening. It will make her life easier now because the wheelchair will allow her child to move easily with no assistance.



The MEC thanked all the staff and stakeholders that contributed to the success of the day. She also thanked the community for coming out in numbers to access the free health services.

Top Left Photo: KZN MEC for Health Ms Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu

## STOP Gender based Violence - COVID-19

**IT** is surprising to hear some men say that this government has given women more rights than men. We do not have women's rights in South Africa but we have the Bill of Rights where all human rights are entrenched because women are also human. We are all equal in the South African Constitution. Some men assume they have a right to be violent to their partners some even say: *"I think she's doing this deliberately to get at me. She knows I get angry when she talks to other men. But she still does it". "If only she'd do what I say and stop making me jealous, I wouldn't be getting so angry".*

It is very painful to hear this type of talk from men. Abuse is not a solution at all. Mandela taught us that violence is not a solution but talking is the best way to deal with our problems. Dr. Nelson Mandela says, "You learn to hate and you can also learn to love as we were not born with hate".

Let us all embrace the spirit of love during these difficult times of the COVID-19 Lock Down. Women and children should feel safe around men, both at home and outside.

## IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR - YEAR END 2020



**IT** is that time of the year again, where you are thankful for everything, where families get together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Now we all know that Christmas is the time of loving, sharing, giving and receiving. Hope you all had a wonderful year that was filled with nothing but joy and laughter.

Sending warm wishes to you and your family during this festive season. May your home be blessed with love and happiness.

As we approach Christmas, and you get out there to purchase food for your families, or buy toys for your kids, and gift for your relatives. We must also remember the less fortunate ones. The ones on the street, the ones by the shelters, the old ones at homes, even those in hospitals. Christmas isn't necessarily about things, it's about being good to one another. Christmas means spreading the affection of our heart in to the lives of others

May God shower his choicest blessings upon you and your family this Christmas We hope you will all have a prosperous and safe new year. Drive safe, stay out of trouble, and don't drink and drive. We hope to see you all next year.

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**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**  
HEALTH  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health  
 KZN Department of Health

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**GROWING  
KWAZULU-NATAL  
TOGETHER**

# KZN LEGISLATURE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE VISIT



**Top Picture:** KZN Legislature Health Portfolio Committee Members, KZN Head of Health, KwaMagwaza Hospital Acting CEO, and King Cetshwayo District Director

The KZN Legislature Health Portfolio Committee visited KwaMagwaza Hospital on the 13th October 2020 to check our status of readiness for COVID-19 and how patients perceive the hospital services they receive. The KZN Health Portfolio Committee was led by the Chairperson. The Department of Health KZN was led by the Health: Head Dr Sandile Tshabalala, Ms. E.N Hlophe District Director, and Dr O.I Ogunwale Acting Hospital CEO. The full hospital status presentation was done by the hospital CEO to the Portfolio Committee Members.

struggling with because some of the buildings are more than 100 years old and built by mud bricks which makes difficult to maintain them. The hospital CEO thanked the Head Office for making sure that other categories of nurses like Enrolled Nursing Assistant (ENA) and Enrolled Nurse (EN) are now filled to boost the component in responding to staff shortage and COVID-19 cases. The Chairperson thanked the hospital for the level of cleanliness within it. She said, "It is very welcoming to see that the buildings are kept clean no matter how old they are", the hospital management was comforted to receive such words of encouragement under difficult conditions.

The presentation outlined many challenges that needed attention of the Head office level. The hospital infrastructure is one of the challenges we are

## Support by the District Mayor - COVID-19



The King Cetshwayo District Mayor Cllr Nonhle Mkhulisi was out in public visiting all the SASSA Grant Pay Points in Melmoth town on 07<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to raise awareness about COVID-19 and the importance of staying home during the lockdown. The Mayor explained to the crowd that, the President put the whole country into a Lockdown to protect the citizen, but that will not be enough if the citizen does not obey those restrictions under the Disaster Act of 2002. The Mayor also emphasized the importance of social distancing in the queues and the importance of hand washing or sanitizing when entering or exiting any building. This will help reduce the spread of the virus.

The SASSA beneficiaries wake up early in the morning to collect their grants and buy groceries. This makes the streets and shops of Melmoth town very busy. The Department of Health KZN encourages the shops to adhere to the regulations in order to stop the spread of the virus.

**Left Picture:** Cllr Nonhle Mkhulisi, King Cetshwayo District Municipality Mayor

## Hand Washing Campaign - TAXI RANK



Our Outreach team went out to train community members on hand washing using basic products that are normally available at home, such as soap and water. The Department of Health KZN observes a concern that community members believe that only alcohol based sanitizers are effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19. It is important to note that soap also has the same effect as alcohol based sanitizers.

Washing your hands properly is one of the most effective ways you can help prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases. Good hand hygiene will reduce the risk of COVID-19 being passed from person to person.

**Stop COVID-19: wash your hands, wear your mask all the time. Together we can beat this pandemic.**

**Left hand side Picture:** Cebolenkosi Mbuyisa, Enrolled Nurse demonstrating how to wash hands at using soap.

**Right hand side Picture:** Ms Nosipho Khanyile, Professional Nurse for School Health



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**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**  
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**GROWING  
KWAZULU-NATAL  
TOGETHER**

# PHOTO GALLERY



**Above Photo:** KZN Legislature Health Portfolio Committee, Chairperson, and Acting SMKH CEO Dr. O.I Ogunwale



**Above Photo from left-hand side:** Dr Sikhakhane (Medical Officer), Dr S Tshabalala (Head: Health), Dr Mashamba (Medical Officer), Mr Bhekiswayo (Ombudsperson)



**Above Photo:** Ms S.B Mc Crindle (Occupational Therapy) with the KZN MEC for Health Ms Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu handing over a wheelchair to the beneficiaries identified by our Community Health Workers in eKuthuleni Area.



**Above Photo:** KZN MEC for Health, District Director, and KZN Health Ministry Team taking community concerns.



**Above Photo:** District Director and MEC handing over a walking stick to the elderly person that was identified by our CHW.



**Above Photo:** KZN MEC for Health Ms Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu handing over a walking stick to an elderly person on the 7 November 2020



**Above Photo:** District Director and MEC for Health visiting a working Station for Social Services led by Ms Nompumelelo Thwala (Social Worker)



**Above Photo:** CHW explaining to the KZN MEC for Health the areas they visit everyday and mountains that they have to climb.



**Above Photo:** The above photos are the visit by KZN Legislature Health Portfolio Committee to Maternity and OPD. The Chairperson interviewed patients about the service and treatment they receive at KwaMagwaza Hospital on daily basis.

